



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

PO Box 8119 San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8119

July 2015

*Kathleen Bellefontaine, Chair
Member at Large*

*Maryanne Zarycka
District 1 Representative*

*Alice York, Vice Chair
District 2 Representative*

*Anita Shower
District 3 Representative*

*Judy Mishoulam
District 4 Representative*

*Shirley Summers
District 5 Representative*

*Gari Cave
Area Agency on Aging,
Council*

*Karen Jones
Long Term Care Ombudsman*

*Elias Nimeh
Senior Nutrition Program*

*Brittany Carraway
Senior Service Provider*

*Marie Pounders
Member at Large*

*Carol Schmidt
Member at Large*

*Marilyn Hamilton
Member at Large*

*Myra Lathrop
Member at Large*

*Roger Randall
Alternate Member at Large*

*Leonard Milstein
Alternate Member at Large*

*Peta Rimington
Alternate Member at Large*

SLO County District Attorney

SLO County Mental Health

SLO County Social Services

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Supervisors:

In accordance with the Bylaws of the SLO County Commission on Aging, Section 3 f, I hereby submit the annual report for the 2014-15 (July-June) year and Goals and Priority Issues for 2015-16.

The Commission meets every third Friday of the month (except in December) at the Veteran's Building, 801 Grand Avenue in San Luis Obispo. Our liaison and Department of Social Services Director, Lee Collins, has provided SLOCOA with a Representative from Adult Services who attends COA meetings and keeps members updated on DSS ability to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. Additionally, DSS administrative support electronically transmits COA affairs to the Supervisor's office, updates the SLOCOA website, and provides copy support when needed.

Our Commissioners serve and represent senior groups throughout the County. In addition to the Supervisors' appointees, we have representatives from local agencies such as the Area Agency on Aging, District Attorney's Office Victim Witness Program, County Mental Health, Senior Nutrition and most recently the County Long Term Care Ombudsman. Our members at large are Senior advocates informed about a variety of senior concerns including, but not limited to, housing matters, delivery of senior support services, senior centers, volunteerism, senior mental & physical health, scams and ID theft. Our members serve without pay for travel and time.

SLOCOA Goals

Progress in achieving two major COA goals in 2014-2015:

1) [Continue to collect information from Seniors about their concerns and their solutions through:](#)

MEDIA: The **SLOCOA website** continues to provide current information about monthly meetings, membership and annual reports. Our newest additions i.e. inquiries from the public on the website and the COA Speakers Bureau list of topics on the site are being utilized. The **SLOCOA** rack card is reviewed and revised on a regular basis. **The Tribune** posts SLOCOA presentations and meetings in the Senior Section. **Senior Centers, Libraries and Members of the public** (upon request) are sent notice of upcoming presentations electronically.

SENIOR CENTERS: COA members volunteer or interact at Centers and keep up to date with their member's concerns. This year SLOCOA presented a panel made up Directors from Templeton Active Senior Club, SLO Newcomers Club, South County Seniors, Atascadero Fun Club to discuss the variety of ways our Centers retain their existence financially and providing activities that draw younger & older seniors.

COMMUNITY AGENCIES: Please see **Attachment 2—2014-15 GOALS** for full details of interaction with these numerous agencies.

2) Continue to provide relevant and timely information to the Board of Supervisors through:

The SLOCOA website publishes agendas, minutes, an annual report; communication between Appointees and Supervisors; as well as our input on legislative issues important to seniors. Please see **Attachment 2—2014-15 GOALS**

SLOCOA Priority Issues

2014-2015 issues followed by Commissioners were 1) Investigating current Affordable Senior Housing; 2) Accessibility Features Needed in current & future housing; 3) Caregiver Needs; 4) Affordable Care Management; 5) Future of Senior Centers/counteracting isolation. See **Attachment 3 --PRIORITIES** for details about how these issues were addressed throughout the year.

SLOCOA Chair's Summary 2014-15

As I review the Attachments in Part One, look over the list of the many presentations, long and short reports presented on the SLO County Commission on Aging "platform" over the last 11 months, on the 3rd Friday of the month, I am amazed at how much information COA has been able to provide to the public and its members. I am deeply thankful to our Speakers and their willingness to give of their time and energy for the good of others. Without the help of COA members Marie Pounders, Alice York, Carol Schmidt, and Brittany Carraway in recruiting our speakers, this achievement could not have been so successful.

Our members, **including the representatives from County Offices**, have remarked how much they have learned and passed on to their peers, colleagues, families, and clients. Our attendance by members of the Public has increased substantially. Therefore, I am satisfied in this fiscal year that we have fulfilled our purpose, which is to provide a forum for information sharing and its dissemination.

Another mission, advisement to the Board of Supervisors, is still a work in progress. We are striving to fulfill that purpose in the following ways: attending Board of Supervisor meetings, posting of Minutes on the COA website, and encouraging interaction of Supervisors with Representatives.

In general, my advisement to the Supervisors is that the list of our top priorities is long (see Attachment 4- Projected Goals and Priorities), the needs are many, and even though COA has recently narrowed our "Areas of Concern" to Senior Housing, Safety for Seniors, Affordable Services to maintain independence, Senior isolation & depression, we continue to find that the available and affordable services and solutions are in short supply. But that is no excuse for not seeking them!

Attachments 2 and 3 are provided to help clarify our activities in the past fiscal year. **Attachment 4** includes the projected goals and priority issues for the next fiscal year and to clarify aspects of the decision making process. Please feel free to offer any suggestions or requests that would facilitate our communication with the Board.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bellefontaine, Chairperson
SLO County Commission on Aging